

Claim 1 (Amended):

A method of performing a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:

B¹ cycling at least one thermal transfer member between at least two temperatures while liquid samples on which said chemical or biochemical protocol is to be performed are continuously moving through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which said at least one thermal transfer member acts, such that the sample is brought to at least two temperatures in said at least one temperature regulated zone.

Claim 9 (Amended):

B² A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:

depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and

moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member cycles between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone.

Claim 21 (Amended):

B³ The method of Claim 9 wherein said sample transport member moves along said pathway in steps.

Claim 24 (Amended):

B⁴ The method of Claim 9 wherein the protocol is carried out in an atmosphere sufficiently humid to reduce or prevent evaporation of the liquid sample volumes.